

King Corn Going South---How an Army of Men and Boy Farmers is Changing Crops of a Nation---Economic Revolution



Jerry Moore raised 228 bushels and three pecks on one acre. This is the yield record of the world for twenty years, and second highest yield in history. This picture shows Jerry and his corn.



The South has 50,000 boy corn raisers. Spring meeting of Boys' Corn Club, Gibson county, Tenn.

BY FRANK G. CARPENTER.
Washington, D. C.
"Three years ago I was a bankrupt. I had borrowed all the money I could on my farm, and my credit was so bad at the store that they would not trust me for a plug of tobacco. I could not pay my interest, and I had decided to give up the farm for the debt and go back to renting. Then one of Uncle Sam's demonstrators got me to plant corn and cotton and to work it after the plans of the Agricultural Department. I thought him a fool, but I was desperate, and I followed his rules. The result has been that the merchants are now chasing me for my custom. I have paid off my mortgages and I have money in the bank."
The man who spoke thus lives in Alabama.
A Voice From Georgia.
"I had always laughed at book farmers. It is a Georgia man who is speaking. 'I was bred and bawn, like Br'er Rabbit, in a briar patch. I was brought up in the cotton fields and corn fields, and I thought I knew all about my land and what it would raise. I didn't want no white-shirted men from Washington coming around to tell me how to manage my farm. I was raising from 100 to 200 pounds of cotton to the acre, and when my crop of corn was over fifteen bushels I thought I did well. Then one of these demonstrators came along and asked me to set out an acre and cultivate it his way. He told me I could double my crop and that I might raise forty, fifty, sixty and even eighty bushels of corn on the same ground where I had been raising twelve or fifteen. I laughed at him and told him he did not know what he was talking about. 'This land,' said I, 'is

just naturally poor, and it won't raise corn anyhow. I ain't going to waste my time for nothing.'
"Well, at that, Mary came out. Mary's my wife, and a mighty good wife she is, too. She leaned beside me over the fence and we talked to the agricultural man who was out in the road. Mary begged me to try it, and the man begged. He was a powerful nice man, and so to oblige the two, I said I would do it."
"I put out that corn. He made me take my old mule team and the heavyest plow and throw up the ground to a depth of ten inches. Then he made me harrow it. I never heard of harrowing for corn. We did this in the fall, and the next spring we plowed deep and harrowed and harrowed again. I got the best seed I could find and cultivated the corn as he said."
"At the same time I concluded there might be something in it, and that if one acre was good, forty acres was better. So I took a field of forty acres away off behind some woods on another part of my farm, and cultivated it just the same way. My acre near the road which the man watched and told me just how to handle, grew so that everybody stopped to look at it, and, to make a long story short, we husked sixty bushels of shelled corn from that acre. When the corn was ripe the agricultural agent asked me whether I thought he had made good. I replied that he had, but that I had other corn on the place that was worth looking at. I then took him through the woods to my other forty-acre, which was just as fine as that on the road. You'd ought to see him look. Well, I got 2,000 bushels of it that forty acres, and I now do all my farming that way."

from a colored man. He writes from Mississippi to the head of the Farmers' Co-Operative Demonstration Work in the South. After years of poverty and despair, he has started raising cotton under government supervision. The spelling of the letter is as it is written. The penmanship I cannot reproduce:
"A. D. T. 15, '10."
"I rite you a few lines in the garde of farming agricultur. I do sey that your advice has Ben Folard, and your direckshon have Ben a Bald, an I find that I am successful in Life. Sey, Mr. Knapp, I do know that there is gooder men as you an as far as you. But o that keen eye ov yours that watches ever crook in farming, that can tell ever men whichever way to Gro to be successful in Life. On last yer I folerd your advice, an allso on yer Befor last. On 1908 I made 14 balls of cotton, and in 1909 I made 14 startle with one mule an now I own 3 head ov the great worthies. Thanks to you for your advice a Long that Line, an Great success in your occupation to you."
"Sey Mr. Knapp I am a culured man. Live near Graysport, Mississippi. Corn a plenty, also make a plenty of Sweet Potatoes. But I read your advice about them. Will close. Yoursse, (Signed) "W. M. WASHINGTON."
The above bits of evidence are mere straws to show how the wind blows. Uncle Sam has a mighty stack of them in his Department of Agriculture, and his mail is loaded with similar letters each day. He is teaching the South how to raise cotton and corn, and is creating a revolution which has already added hundreds of millions to our national wealth. He has now an equal number of boys who are raising corn under government direction.

The champion corn raisers of eleven Southern States. Secretary Wilson and officers of the farm demonstration work in the rear. These boys had a free trip to Washington, where this photo was taken.
and the result is the creation of a new industrial empire.
Until within the last decade cotton was the money king of the South. It was the cash crop, and it paid all the bills. The farmers imported the feed for their stock, and the corn lands of the North furnished the hog and the hominy. Then the boll weevil came in and, with its scimitar-like nose, began to eat into King Cotton, even as the worms ate into King Herod the Great, and King Cotton seemed like to give up the ghost. Uncle Sam, patriarch, saw the wrinkles of ruin springing up on the faces of his multitudinous children throughout the South, and he sent his legions of angels in the form of the agricultural scientists to fight down the weevil, and planned the raising of crops which should add to or take the place of the cotton. The chief crop was corn, and as a result the people of the South have sprung from being the poorest to potentially the richest of Uncle Sam's children. The growth has been almost all accomplished in the space of four or five years, and it means hundreds of millions of dollars.
\$500,000,000 Crop.
The corn crop of the South during 1910 was one-third of that of the whole country. It was nearly 1,000,000,000 bushels, and at the low price of 50 cents a bushel it was worth \$500,000,000. It exceeded by many millions the output of the gold mines of all the world for that year, and not more than half the value of the gold, including both lint and seed. The increase of the corn crop of nine Southern States over that of 1909 was more than 158,000,000 bushels, or a value of nearly \$80,000,000, and this is nearly 10 per cent. of the total increase in corn for the whole United States during that year. These States were Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas. The total crop, as I have said, was almost 1,000,000,000 bushels. As a whole the figures stagger the mind, but a whole corn upon two-horse wagons at a ton to the load and let each team take a space of forty feet on the roadway and the train of teams would reach almost around the globe at the equator, the first wagon being nearly 200,000 miles distant by the time the last wagon was loaded.
Does it not look as though corn might become king of the South?
Two Hundred Thousand Farmers at School.
But the work is just at its beginning. It was organized and organized by the late Dr. Knapp only about five years ago. But there are already 200,000 farms scattered over the Southern States on which experiments are being made by boys and men as to the new ways of corn culture, and each of these is a school for the community where it lies. The government has 550 traveling agents, who supervise the work, and each of these has a large number of demonstrators of teachers who visit the farmers every week or so to instruct them just how to go about raising the crop. Where possible they have these experimental plantations set out close to the roads so that the people can see the results as they go by on the way to or from town. They have organized farm clubs in several thousand communities and have caused the institution of hundreds of county fairs in the interest of improved agriculture.
Not only the government, but the States, counties and towns are giving to it large sums of money. The appropriation of Congress last year was \$250,000, but to this \$113,000 was added from the Rockefeller fund, and many thousands were given by the business organizations and the bankers, merchants and wealthy men of the various communities. In addition to the large number of farms or experimental patches on farms under the direct

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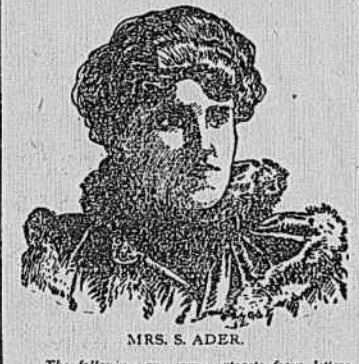
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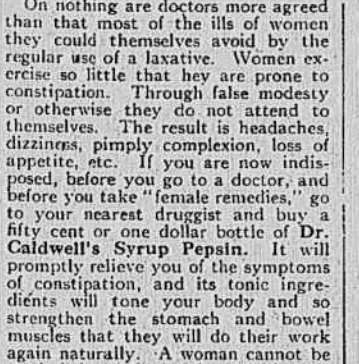
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MRS. J. E. KENNEDY.
The following are some extracts from letters Dr. Caldwell has received:
"I received the sample of Syrup Pepsin you sent, and found it to do all you claimed for it. I don't think I shall ever be without it again. For I have a large bottle always in my house. I can eat meats all right now. I also give it to my children."—Mrs. J. E. Kennedy, Good Will, Okla.



Dr. Caldwell does not feel that the purchase of his remedy ends his obligation. He has specialized in stomach, liver and bowel diseases for over forty years, and will be pleased to give the reader any advice on the subject free of charge. All are welcome to write him. Whether for the medical advice or the free sample, address him Dr. W. B. Caldwell, 541 Caldwell Building, Monticello, Ill.

"I have received your sample bottle which you sent upon request. I have never had anything in a medicine form that has accomplished anything like yours has. It is simply great. I have already used two bottles of the 50c size after the arrival and using of your sample."—Mrs. Katherine Haberstroh, McKees Rocks, Pa.
"I have used your sample of Syrup Pepsin, and think it is very good to have in the house, and I don't want to ever be without it. It is a fine laxative, and I thank you very much for your free sample."—Mrs. Smith, 73 South Rose Street, Chillicothe, Ohio.

charge of the government agents and their demonstrators, there are more than 70,000 farmers who are receiving instruction from the Agricultural Department by letter and are reporting the results. This makes a mighty correspondence school, which is not confined to corn alone, but to the proper cultivation of cotton, oats, cowpeas and hay.
Big Money in Southern Lands.
I wish I could give you some idea of the results that have already been accomplished. I have spent the week at the Agricultural Department, talking with the agents of the farmers' cooperative demonstration work who have just come in from the fields and who are bringing this enormous mass of correspondence. I have also talked with Mr. Knapp, who, with his father, the late Dr. S. A. Knapp, has special charge of this work.
They tell stories of hundreds of farmers who within the past three or four years, through proper farming, have climbed over the hill of difficulty into easy street, and of a large number who are making big sums of money. One man, for instance, a Mr. T. O. Sandy, bought a tract of land about three years ago, south of Richmond in Notoway county, Va. He paid \$4 an acre and began to raise hay after the rules laid down by the department. At the end of two years he was getting five tons of hay per acre from the four dollar land and was selling the hay at \$25 a ton. In other words, his gross income for land that cost him \$4 per acre was \$125 per acre. That man is still farming.
One of Uncle Sam's clerks has bought 1,200 acres within twenty-five miles of the National Capital, and he is putting it out in corn after government methods. The land cost him \$10 per acre, and it is close to the railroad, within easy access of Washington, Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. The scientists of the department tell me that the land needs only cultivation and the right crops to make it produce as much corn as the best soil of Illinois, Kansas or Iowa. It is within a half hour's ride by rail of Washington city and it was bought at a much lower price than that of the second-class lands of Texas or other States beyond the Mississippi.
Another farmer was induced to cultivate five-eighths of an acre of cotton after government methods. His plantation was then producing something like 200 pounds of lint to the acre. He began his experiment in 1908, at which time he could not afford to send his children to school. He succeeded so well that in 1909 he planted his whole plantation that way and raised 1,200 pounds of seed cotton per acre. He also tried corn, raising as much as 150 bushels on a single acre of ground. It is now two years and that man has paid all his debts and has money in the bank. His boys are in the high school and his daughters have gone to college.
Eighty Thousand Boy Corn-Raisers.
One of the most important features of this revolution is the work being done by the boys. At the present writing

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